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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY

September 14, 2001

Dear Colleague:

As you know, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security was selected by Speaker J. Dennis Hastert and Mr. Gephardt to spearhead efforts in the House of Representatives to examine all facets of the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> and to recommend new countermeasures.

We believe it is our responsibility to also help facilitate the flow of useful unclassified information to all members. We have attached a page from the *Patterns of Global Terrorism 1999* United States State Department annual report. This specific report profiles Usama Bin Ladin, who may be involved in the horrific terrorist event of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Though there are many different aspects of terrorism to consider, we believe it is important to highlight this individual for your attention.

We hope you find this information useful, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information or would like to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

  
Saxby Chambliss  
Chairman

  
Jane Harman  
Ranking Member

Extracted From:

# STATE DEPARTMENT PATTERNS OF GLOBAL TERRORISM, 1999

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## Usama Bin Ladin



Usama Bin Ladin

The bombings of the US Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 7 August 1998 underscored the global reach of Usama Bin Ladin—a longtime sponsor and financier of extremist causes—and brought to full public awareness his transition from sponsor to terrorist. A series of public threats to drive the United States and its allies out of Muslim countries foreshadowed the attacks, including what was presented as a fatwa (Muslim legal opinion) published on 23 February 1998 by Bin Ladin and allied groups under the name "World Islamic Front for Jihad Against the Jews and Crusaders." The statement asserted it was a religious duty for all Muslims to wage war on US citizens, military and civilian, anywhere in the world.

The 17th son of Saudi construction magnate Muhammad Bin Ladin, Usama joined the Afghan resistance almost immediately after the Soviet invasion in December 1979. He played a significant role in financing, recruiting, transporting, and training Arab nationals who volunteered to fight in Afghanistan. During the war, Bin Ladin founded al-Qaida (the Base) to serve as an operational hub for like-minded extremists. The Saudi Government revoked his citizenship in 1994, and his family officially disowned him. He moved to Sudan in 1991, but international pressure on Khartoum forced him to move to Afghanistan in 1996.

Bin Ladin has stated publicly that terrorism is a tool to achieve the group's goal of bringing Islamic rule to Muslim lands and "cleanse" them of Western influence and

corruption. To this end, Bin Ladin in 1999 led a broad-based, versatile organization. Suspects named in the wake of the Embassy bombings—Egyptians, one Comoran, one Palestinian, one Saudi, and US citizens—reflect the range of al-Qaida operatives. The diverse groups under his umbrella afford Bin Ladin resources beyond those of the people directly loyal to him. With his own inherited wealth, business interests, contributions from sympathizers in various countries, and support from close allies like the Egyptian and South Asian groups that signed his fatwa, he funds, trains, and offers logistic help to extremists not directly affiliated with his organization. He seeks to aid those who support his primary goals—driving US forces from the Arabian Peninsula, removing the Saudi ruling family from power, and "liberating Palestine"—or his secondary goals of removing Western military forces and overthrowing what he calls corrupt, Western-oriented governments in predominantly Muslim countries. His organization has sent trainers throughout Afghanistan as well as to Tajikistan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen and has trained fighters from numerous other countries, including the Philippines, Egypt, Libya, Pakistan, and Eritrea.

Using the ties al-Qaida has developed, Bin Ladin believes he can call upon individuals and groups virtually worldwide to conduct terrorist attacks. In December 1998, Bin Ladin gave a series of interviews in which he denied involvement in the East Africa bombings but said he "instigated" them and called for attacks on US citizens worldwide in retaliation for the strikes against Iraq. Bin Ladin's public statements then ceased under increased pressure from his Taliban hosts. Nonetheless, in 1999, Bin Ladin continued to influence like-minded extremists to his cause, and his organization continued to engage in terrorist planning. His Egyptian and South Asian allies, for example, continued publicly to threaten US interests. Bin Ladin's public remarks also underscored his expanding interests, including a desire to obtain a capability to deploy weapons of mass destruction.